

Federal employees. And they know the American people want this. They know that Republican and Democrat Senators alike wanted it, and they know if it comes to this floor for a vote, it will pass, because a vast majority of the Members of this House believe that those employees should be Federal employees, well-trained, well-equipped, well-paid professional people who are charged with the responsibility of keeping us safe when we fly.

Many Americans are shocked to learn that in some of the major airports in this country, up to 80 percent of the employees who provide this security are noncitizens. They are noncitizens of this country. They receive little more than minimum wage. They received a day or two of training. Some of them receive less training than they would receive if they were hired by Starbucks to sell coffee in our airports. Yet they are charged with keeping our airports safe and making it safe for us and our families and our loved ones to board those planes.

It is shameful in my judgment that we are wasting so much time in this House, that we are completing work before 5 o'clock in the evening, that we are leaving town tomorrow in the early afternoon and not returning until 6 o'clock next Tuesday without acting on this airline security bill.

We do not want Americans to be afraid to fly but Americans have a right to know. They have a right to know that today when they get on an airplane, it is likely that 95 percent of the luggage that is in the belly of that airplane has not been checked for explosives. They need to know that as they make decisions about themselves and their families and whether or not they want to fly. And we need to understand that if we want this economy to go downward, we will lose another plane or two and people just simply will refuse to get on our airliners.

We can do this. The technology is there to check for explosive devices. We just simply do not have the will to make the decision to make it happen. Yesterday my friend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and I went to the Committee on Rules. We wanted a part of this stimulus package to provide the financial resources to enable our airports to have these devices that could check for explosives. That certainly was not made a part of today's package which passed here on the floor of this House. But if we lose an airliner as a result of an explosive device being placed on that airliner, the responsibility is going to be in this House and it is especially going to be on the leadership of this House if they do not move this bill forward. Bring it to the floor, let us debate it, let us vote. We owe this to the American people. The American people want it, and I believe as they become increasingly aware of the dangers they face that they will demand it.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to do this and we ought to do it this week rather than waiting to some later time.

#### REPUBLICAN STIMULUS PACKAGE IN JEOPARDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, about a week ago, the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary O'Neill, referred to the Republican so-called stimulus package as a showboat plan. He implied that it was going nowhere with the administration, that it did not support many of its provisions. I guess I would say after the vote on the floor of the House today, we could say that the showboat is listing, taking on a lot of water and about to sink. By the narrowest of margins, despite the larger Republican majority, the bill passed the House by three votes today.

It is not going anywhere. Why is that? Is that because the Members of the United States House of Representatives do not care about the economy, do not care about the millions of people who have lost their jobs, do not have continuation of their health insurance? No, it is because they knew that this bill was a charade, a farce. This bill does nothing to help average Americans, working families, those who have lost their jobs, the small businesses that have been hit by the recession and are struggling to make ends meet. No, it goes and gifts the largest, most profitable corporations in America, those who have to have a special provision in the tax bill, that have been able to shelter so much income that they do not have any apparent taxes, they have to pay something called the corporate alternative minimum tax. This was a reform put through by a Republican Senate, a Democratic House and signed into law by Ronald Reagan because of the outrages of the 1980s, when the largest, most profitable corporations of the world were not paying any taxes, who in fact were getting rebates for taxes they had not paid. So this loophole was shut.

Guess what? They just blasted it back open again. This bill would provide \$25 billion, paid for out of the Social Security Trust Fund, in retroactive tax rebates to the largest, most profitable corporations in the world. That is an outrage. \$2.3 billion to the Ford Motor Company, \$1.4 billion to IBM, \$833 million to GM, \$671 million to GE, with no requirement they pass on a penny to their workers, the workers they have laid off because of the recession, without a single word saying, they might cover the health insurance of those they have laid off because of the recession.

No, in fact this money is a retroactive gift under the Republican version of a stimulus package which will do nothing to stimulate the economy, do nothing to help those workers or their families, do nothing to help small businesses who are crying out for relief.

There are even more outrages in the bill. The bill also has \$20 billion of tax

incentives for corporations to make investments overseas. I guess the Republican majority is concerned about burgeoning unemployment in the Third World or in Europe or Japan or elsewhere but not here in the United States of America. They have given a bigger pile of money to corporations as a tax break, \$20 billion, for overseas investments than they put in here to help out America's working families and small businesses who have been hit so hard in this tumbling economy. This is outrageous.

This follows on the heels, of course, of the \$16 billion airline bailout bill which, of course, did not contain a penny for workers or workers' health insurance or extended unemployment or even aviation security. None of those things are in the bill. But we were told at the time when I raised objection, offered a motion to recommit on the floor, wait till next week. Well, it is 5 weeks later. Guess what? We are still waiting for some assistance to those airlines workers and people in related industries and small businesses like the travel agents who have been hit so hard. Nothing has been done for them. We are still waiting for one penny to be appropriated by this House of Representatives for aviation security. We are still waiting for a comprehensive aviation security bill. All those things can wait. But a retroactive repeal of a tax provision that closed a loophole cannot wait. That had to be rushed through this House today.

We just cannot wait to see the way those corporations will spend the money. I am sure they will put millions to work. Well, maybe not. Maybe they will give the money in dividends to stockholders, maybe they will give bonuses to the CEOs because they were able to maneuver this kind of a tax break through the Congress. It is not likely it will flow into the pension funds that have been raided by IBM and others. It is not likely that it will flow to the workers who have lost their jobs. It is not going into extended unemployment benefits. It is not going to give health insurance coverage to those people. This is simply an outrage.

That is why this was such a narrowly divided vote in this House of Representatives. Not because we do not care, that we do not want to do what is right by the American people and the economy. We do. That requires a combination of assistance to people who have lost their jobs and small businesses that have been hit hard. That should have been one element of the bill; targeted tax cuts, those that would increase investment, increase jobs; and, third, investment in America, the transportation infrastructure of this country in a fiscally responsible way. That would have been a true recovery package. Maybe we can still get there if the Senate has the guts to stand up to the minor part of the majority here in the House.